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Letter dated 30 October 2003 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

The mandate of my Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region, Ibrahima Fall, will expire on 31 December 2003.

Since his appointment, Mr. Fall has pursued consultations on the international conference on the Great Lakes region, building on the efforts of his predecessor, on the basis of the concept paper I had provided to the leaders of the region. Those consulted included the African Union, regional and international organizations and interested and concerned countries. Mr. Fall's consultations have led to the launching of the preparatory process of the international conference on the Great Lakes region. He is currently working with the countries of the region in order to expedite the convening of the conference.

In view of this, it is my intention to extend the mandate of my Special Representative for the Great Lakes Region until 31 December 2004. I should be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

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